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10/786,030	02/26/2004	Ahmed E. Hassan	42783-0040	2914

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RIDOUT & MAYBEE  
SUITE 2400  
ONE QUEEN STREET EAST  
TORONTO, ON M5C3B1  
CANADA

EXAMINER

ADDY, ANTHONY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/786,030

Applicant(s)

HASSAN ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony S. Addy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 18-26 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 18-24 and 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 25 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2617.

2. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on January 31, 2006. **Claims** 16, 17 and 27 are canceled and new claim 28 has been added. **Claims** 1-15, 18-26 and 28 are now pending in the present application.

### *Response to Arguments*

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15, 18-26 and 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 1-8 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Fogle et al., U.S. Publication Number 2003/0074590 A1 (hereinafter Fogle)**, and further in view of **Lopes, U.S. Patent Number 6,189,105 (hereinafter Lopes)**.

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Fogle teaches an electronic device (see p. 1 [0015] and Fig.1) comprising: a processor (see p. 1 [0015] and Fig.1); an output device connected to the processor for issuing a stimulus to a user of the electronic device (see

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p. 2 [0018-0019] and Fig.1); at least one input device connected to the processor and responsive to user input activity (see p. 2 [0018-0020] and Fig.1); and a device lock module associated with the processor for implementing restrictions on user access to the electronic device if user input activity falls below a threshold (see p. 3 [0030-0036], p. 3 [0040-0044], p. 5 [0060] and Fig. 1; shows an electronic device 10 including a standby/lock utility 44 [i.e. the standby/lock utility 44 reads on a lock module, since the electronic device 10 uses the standby/lock utility 44 to automatically activate a lock mode when there is no user action or input such as pressing a key on the keyboard 28]). Fogle further teaches a user action timer for tracking the time since the last detected user activity or input is reset (see p. 3 [0040] and p. 4 [0042 & 0045]).

Fogle fails to explicitly teach redetermining the threshold if a stimulus is issued by the output device.

In an analogous field of endeavor, Lopes teaches a proximity detection system, wherein the proximity detection system comprises means for enabling a computer when a valid user is present, and means for disabling the computer when the valid user is not present (see col. 2, lines 15-19). According to Lopes, a security timer is implemented to continuously check to see if the authorizing proximity badge [i.e. a valid user] remains within the proximity of the proximity reader of the computer (see col. 5, line 9-14 and Fig. 1; shows a proximity reader 120 [i.e. the proximity reader 120 reads on an output device for issuing a stimulus]). Lopes further teaches the security timer is resetted [i.e. incremented or decremented] based on particular needs to determine whether to check for the presence of an authorized user (see col. 2, lines 15-40). One of ordinary skill in

the art further recognizes it would have been obvious to redetermine the threshold if a stimulus is issued by the output device based on the teachings of Lopes and in combination with the teachings of Fogle that a user action timer for tracking the time since the last detected user activity or input is reset (see p. 3 [0040] and p. 4 [0042 & 0045]).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the security timer of Lopes in the device of Fogle, in order to redetermine a time to check if a valid user remains within the proximity of a computing device and avoid unnecessary checking and rechecking of an authorized user within the proximity of the computing device as taught by Lopes (see col. 5, lines 15-40 and col. 7, lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 3, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 2. In addition, Fogle teaches an electronic device, wherein the device lock module is configured for setting an initial value for the timed period (see p. 3 [0033-0036]); monitoring for user input activity within the timed period and if user input activity is not detected within the timed period then implementing the restrictions on user access (see p. 3 [0030-0036]); and monitoring for issuance of the stimulus within the timed period and if the stimulus is issued during the timed period, resetting a time remaining in the timed period to a second value less than the initial value (see p. 3 [0030-0036], p. 3 [0040-0045] [i.e. Fogle teaching of resetting a user action timer for tracking the time since the last detected user activity or input broadly reads on monitoring for issuance of the stimulus within the timed period and if the stimulus is issued during the timed period,

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resetting a time remaining in the timed period to a second value less than the initial value]).

Regarding claim 4, Fogle teaches all the limitations of claim 3. In addition, Fogle teaches an electronic device, wherein if the stimulus is issued during the timed period the time remaining in the timed period is reset to the second value only when the time remaining in the timed period when the stimulus is issued exceeds the second value (see p. 3 [0030-0036] and p. 3 [0040-0045]).

Regarding claim 5, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 3. In addition, Fogle teaches an electronic device, wherein the device lock module is configured for tracking user response times to issued stimuli and adjusting the second value based on the tracked user response times (see p. 3 [0030-0036], p. 3 [0040-0045] and p. 4 [0049-0052]).

Regarding claim 6, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 1. In addition, Fogle teaches an electronic device, wherein the stimulus includes at least one of an aural stimulus and a physical stimulus (see p. 3 [0032-0033]).

Regarding claim 7, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 1. In addition, Fogle teaches an electronic device, wherein the electronic device is a mobile communications device enabled for communications over a wireless network (see p. 1 [0015] and p. 2 [0021]), and the processor is configured for causing the output device to issue the stimulus when the electronic device receives a new communication addressed to it over the wireless network (see p. 2 [0021-0022]).

Regarding claim 8, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 7. In addition, Fogle teaches an electronic device, wherein the new communication is selected from the group consisting of an electronic message and an incoming telephone call (see p. 2 [0021-0022]).

Regarding claims 11 and 12, Fogle teaches a method for providing security for a mobile communications device (see p. 1 [0015] and Figures 3A & 3B), including steps of: monitoring for predetermined user interaction with the mobile communications device (see p. 3 [0033]); and locking the mobile communications device if the predetermined user interaction is not detected within a predetermined lockout time interval (see p. 3 [0030-0036], p. 3 [0040-0044], p. 5 [0060] and Fig. 1; shows an electronic device 10 including a standby/lock utility 44 [i.e. the standby/lock utility 44 reads on a lock module, since the electronic device 10 uses the standby/lock utility 44 to automatically activate a lock mode when there is no user action or input such as pressing a key on the keyboard 28]). Fogle further teaches a user action timer for tracking the time since the last detected user activity or input is reset (see p. 3 [0040] and p. 4 [0042 & 0045]).

Fogle fails to explicitly teach resetting the lockout time interval to a shorter value if a user stimulus is issued by the mobile communications device.

In an analogous field of endeavor, Lopes teaches a proximity detection method and system, wherein the proximity detection system comprises means for enabling a computer when a valid user is present, and means for disabling the computer when the valid user is not present (see col. 2, lines 15-19). According to Lopes, a security timer is

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implemented to continuously check to see if the authorizing proximity badge [i.e. a valid user] remains within the proximity of the proximity reader of the computer (see col. 5, line 9-14 and Fig. 1; shows a proximity reader 120 [i.e. the proximity reader 120 reads on an output device for issuing a stimulus]). Lopes further teaches the security timer is resetted [i.e. incremented or decremented] based on particular needs to determine whether to check for the presence of an authorized user (see col. 2, lines 15-40). One of ordinary skill in the art further recognizes it would have been obvious to reset the lockout time interval to a shorter value if a user stimulus is issued by the mobile communications device based on the teachings of Lopes and in combination with the teachings of Fogle that a user action timer for tracking the time since the last detected user activity or input is reset (see p. 3 [0040] and p. 4 [0042 & 0045]).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fogle with Lopes to include a method of resetting the lockout time interval to a shorter value if a user stimulus is issued by the mobile communications device, in order to redetermine a time to check if a valid user remains within the proximity of a computing device and avoid unnecessary checking and rechecking of an authorized user within the proximity of the computing device as taught by Lopes (see col. 5, lines 15-40 and col. 7, lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 13, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 11. In addition, Fogle teaches a method including monitoring for new communications received by the mobile communications device and issuing the user stimulus in



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response to receiving a new communication at the mobile communications device (see p. 3 [0033]).

Regarding claim 14, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 11. In addition, Fogle teaches a method including monitoring a length of time for user interaction to occur after the user stimulus has been issued and adjusting the shorter value based thereon (see p. 3 [0030-0036], p. 3 [0040-0045] and p. 4 [0049-0052]).

6. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Fogle et al., U.S. Publication Number 2003/0074590 A1 (hereinafter Fogle)** and **Lopes, U.S. Patent Number 6,189,105 (hereinafter Lopes)** as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Rodriguez et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,651,173 (hereinafter Rodriguez)**.

Regarding claims 9 and 10, Fogle in view of Lopes teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Fogle in view of Lopes fails to explicitly teach an electronic device, wherein the electronic device includes an event scheduling application associated with the processor for generating event reminders, the processor being configured for causing the output device to issue the stimulus when an event reminder is generated and wherein stimulus are issued for at least two different type of events, the thus threshold being redetermined based on the type of event for which the stimulus is issued.

Rodriguez, however, teaches an electronic device including an event scheduling application associated with the processor for generating event reminders, the processor being configured for causing the output device to issue a notification when an event

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reminder is generated (see col. 3, lines 13-44 and col. 4, lines 33-50). Rodriguez further teaches event notifications are issued for different types of events as defined by the user and the system inactivity timeout period may be set based on the type of event for which notification is issued (see col. 3, lines 33-65 and col. 5, lines 25-42).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fogle and Lopes with Rodriguez to include an event scheduling application associated with the processor for generating event reminders, the processor being configured for causing the output device to issue the stimulus when an event reminder is generated, in order to notify a user of the electronic device of a scheduled event via a pop-up dialog, which can be set to activate a predetermined period prior to the start time of the event as per the teachings of Rodriguez (see col. 4, lines 33-42).

7. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ozeki et al., U.S. Publication Number 2003/0073448 A1 (hereinafter Ozeki)**, and further in view of **Bates et al., U.S. Publication Number 2002/0129283 A1 (hereinafter Bates)**.

Regarding claim 25, Ozeki teaches a method for providing security to a mobile electronic device (see p. 1 [0010-0012] and Figures 4, 6 & 7) including the steps of: receiving input signals from an input device of the mobile electronic device (see p. 2 [0037-0040], p. 3 [0049] and p. 5 [0091]); determining if the mobile electronic device is in a secure location based on the input signals (see p. 3 [0050-0051], p. 3 [0057] and p. 5 [0092-0095]).

Ozeki fails to explicitly teach requiring input of a first predetermined password by a user to unlock the mobile electronic device if it is in the secure location and requiring input of a second predetermined password by a user to unlock the mobile electronic device if it is not in the secure location.

In an analogous field of endeavor, Bates teaches a method of restricting access to an electronic device, wherein the electronic device can be enabled only when a geographic-specific password is entered (see abstract). According to Bates, a user stores a geographic-specific password for each of the geographic regions, and when the user travels and wishes to enable the electronic device, the GPS card and antenna receive and process the device's current location, and when the user inputs a password, the electronic device determines if the password is appropriate for the current location, if not access is denied (see abstract).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ozeki with Bates to include a method of requiring input of a first predetermined password by a user to unlock the mobile electronic device if it is in the secure location and requiring input of a second predetermined password by a user to unlock the mobile electronic device if it is not in the secure location, in order to restrict access to an electronic device by simply entering a password based on geographic location as per the teachings of Bates (see p. 1 [0008]).

8. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Okuda, U.S. Publication Number 2003/0078054 A1 (hereinafter Okuda)**, and further in view of **Ritter, U.S. Publication Number 2002/0090913 A1 (hereinafter Ritter)**.

Regarding claim 28, Okuda teaches a mobile device enabled for receiving electronic messages (see p. 2 [0031-0032] and Fig. 1), comprising: a processor (see p. 3 [0042-0043] and Fig. 3; shows a CPU 12); at least a first input device connected to the processor for providing input signals thereto (see p. 3 [0046] and Fig. 3); an output device connected to the processor for providing output to a user of the mobile device (see p. 3 [0044] and Fig. 3); and the processor being configured for determining location information for the mobile device based on input signals received from the first input device (see p. 3 [0050-0051]).

Okuda fails to explicitly teach a message filtering module associated with the processor for filtering electronic messages received by the mobile device, the message filtering module being configured for adjusting filtering criteria for filtering the electronic messages in dependence on the determined location information.

In an analogous field of endeavor, Ritter teaches a portable radio receiver including a message filtering module associated with the processor for filtering electronic messages received by the portable radio receiver, the message filtering module being configured for adjusting filtering criteria for filtering the electronic messages in dependence on the determined location information (see p. 3 [0032-0033]).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the filtering module of Ritter in the device of Okuda, in order to receive location-dependent information such as restaurant, hotel or recreational information based on the user's current location as taught by Ritter (see p. 3 [0033]).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. **Claims** 15, 18-24 and 26 are allowed.

### ***Conclusion***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony S. Addy whose telephone number is 571-272-7795. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duc M. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony S. Addy', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony S. Addy  
April 17, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

ELISEO RAMOS-FELICIANO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER